

What About That New Voter Photo ID Law? (Answers to the most common questions!)

When did this all come about?

The new photo ID law for voting was actually passed in 2013, with an effective date of July 1, 2014, in order to allow the Virginia Board of Elections enough time to implement policy, obtain equipment and train 133 General Registrars and their office staff on the new systems.

What is the actual law requiring photo ID to vote?

§ 24.2-643. Qualified voter permitted to vote; procedures at polling place; voter identification.

B. An officer of election shall ask the voter for his full name and current residence address and repeat, in a voice audible to party and candidate representatives present, the full name and address stated by the voter. The officer shall ask the voter to present any one of the following forms of identification: **his valid Virginia driver's license, his valid United States passport, or any other photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth; or any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.**



Any voter who does not show one of the forms of identification specified in this subsection shall be offered a provisional ballot under the provisions of § 24.2-653. The State Board of Elections shall provide an ID-ONLY provisional ballot envelope that requires no follow-up action by the registrar or electoral board other than matching submitted identification documents from the voter for the electoral board to make a determination on whether to count the ballot.

What is the definition of "valid"?

1VAC20-40-10. Definitions; Article 1; General Provisions

"Valid" for all purposes related to voter identification means (i) the document appears to be genuinely issued by the agency or issuing entity appearing upon the document, (ii) the bearer of the document reasonably appears to be the person whose photograph is contained thereon, and (iii) the document shall be current or have expired within the preceding 12 months. The officer of election shall determine whether the document is officially acceptable based on its face.

What about the old non-photo voter ID card?

The old, non-photo voter ID card is no longer valid ID at the polls because it does not include a photo. It can still be provided to the voter for precinct and district assignment information and is NOT required to vote – ONLY ONE valid photo ID is required at the polls.

What if I don't have any of the acceptable photo IDs?

Anyone who DOES NOT have one of the other acceptable photo IDs may apply for a free ID through the General Registrar's Office. Fill out a simple form that states that you do not have any of the other forms of ID, have your photo taken and sign a signature pad. That's it! Your new photo ID card will arrive in the mail within two weeks.

Do I need a photo ID to vote an Absentee Ballot?

Voters who vote an Absentee Ballot BY MAIL are not required to produce an ID.

Voters who vote an Absentee Ballot IN PERSON are required to have a photo ID.

What if I change my address?

Legal requirements of each photo ID are determined by the issuing agency. The new Virginia Voter Photo ID will have only your name, photo, signature and Voter ID Number bar code. You will still have to submit a Virginia Voter Registration Application to update your record to ensure continued eligibility to vote and be included in the correct precinct Pollbook, but the card will "move with you".

What if I lose my Virginia Voter Photo ID card?

Since the card includes your photo, no one else can use it. If you require a replacement, contact your General Registrar for a free replacement.

What if my appearance changes dramatically?

Contact your General Registrar and have a new photo taken to create a replacement card.

What if I cannot go to my General Registrar's Office to obtain the new photo ID due to a disability?

If you vote an Absentee Ballot BY MAIL, you do not need the new photo ID. However, if you anticipate voting in person, Absentee Ballot or at the polls, you will need the ID. Some General Registrars are planning to mobilize the photo ID system. Contact your General Registrar for more information (may not be available in all localities due to funding/staffing).

What if there isn't enough time to get a new photo ID before the election?

Go to your General Registrar's Office. If the voter registration books are closed, they can issue a temporary ID on the spot. Or, go to the polls and vote a Provisional Ballot, then visit the General Registrar's office to obtain the temporary ID to present to the Electoral Board to validate your Provisional Ballot (by noon on the Friday following the election).

Still have questions or want to schedule a presentation for your group? Contact us!

James City County	City of Williamsburg	York County
General Registrar: Alan J. "AJ" Cole Sr. 101-E Mounts Bay Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185 P.O. Box 3567, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3567 Phone: 757-253-6868 Fax: 757-253-6875 TDD: 711 Website: jamescitycountywa.gov/vote Email: vote@jamescitycountyva.gov	General Registrar: Win Sowder Municipal Building 401 Lafayette St, Williamsburg, VA 23185 P.O. Box 3538, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3538 Phone: 757-220-6157 Fax: 757-220-6158 Website: williamsburgva.gov/vote Email: wsowder@williamsburgva.gov	General Registrar: Walter T. Latham Jr. 224 Ballard St., Yorktown, VA 23690 P.O. Box 451, Yorktown, VA 23690 Phone: 757-890-3440 Fax: 757-890-3449 TDD: 757-890-3300 Website: yorkcounty.gov/voting Email: registrar@yorkcounty.gov

